



CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

JANUARY 22 2011

Scripture Story: Genesis 4:25–6:2.

Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 6.

a very long walk with God



Photo by Luis Guerra, Jr.

flashlight

"But after the birth of his first son, Enoch reached a higher experience; he was drawn into a closer relationship with God. He realized more fully his own obligations and responsibility as a son of God. And as he saw the child's love for its father, its simple trust in his protection; as he felt the deep, yearning tenderness of his own heart for that firstborn son, he learned a precious lesson of the wonderful love of God to men in the gift of His Son, and the confidence which the children of God may repose in their heavenly Father" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 84).

keytext

"When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away."

(Genesis 5:21-24, NIV)

what do you think?

Make a list of a few character qualities or personality traits

that seem to run in your family. They can be physical attributes, personality traits, or beliefs and values. How are these passed on?

Traits/Qualities	How passed on
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Agree or Disagree. The tendency to live fully for God is something you are taught more than something you inherit through your family genes.

Why did you respond the way you did? What kinds of things are genetically passed on from generation to generation and what kinds of things are learned as one grows up in a certain environment?

did you know?

Adam lived 930 years, and many of his descendants lived several centuries. Since Adam and Eve lived alongside many of the generations that eventually populated the earth, firsthand stories of the Garden of Eden, the serpent, and the promise of grace were readily available. It is hard to imagine, but Adam, while he was still alive, was a great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather. Now that's a little difficult to understand!

INTO THE STORY

"This is the written account of Adam's line.

"When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them 'man.'

"When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.

"When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father of Enosh. And after he became the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Seth lived 912 years, and then he died.

"When Enosh had lived 90 years, he became the father of Kenan. And after he became the father of Kenan,

Enosh lived 815 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enosh lived 905 years, and then he died.

"When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel. And after he became the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Kenan lived 910 years, and then he died.

"When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he became the father of Jared. And after he became the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Mahalalel lived 895 years, and then he died.

"When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. And after he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Jared lived 962 years, and then he died.

"When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away."

(Genesis 5:1-24, NIV)

OUT OF THE STORY

Read through the entire passage about the lineage of Enoch. *Underline* initial insights you have as you read this passage.

Which names are you most familiar with? Which names are new?

On a piece of paper, make a time line that shows how long each person lived and how long each generation overlapped the others. How many descendants listed in this passage were born while Adam was still living?

What do you think were the lessons that were passed on from generation to generation? If you could pass on godly advice to the next generation, what would you say (in 20 words or less)?

When did Enoch actually begin walking with God? Why do you think the birth of Methuselah would have been that significant?

What do you think is meant by the statement that Enoch “walked with God”? What would that look like in the life of someone today?

Why do you think God “took” Enoch when He had not “taken” others who were faithfully devoted to Him?

punch lines

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” (Matthew 5:8, NIV).

“By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Hebrews 11:5, 6, NIV).

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5, NIV).

“Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did” (1 John 2:6, NIV).

“Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: ‘See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him’” (Jude 14, 15, NIV).

other eyes

“Character is what you are in the dark.”—D. L. Moody, 19th-century U.S. evangelist.

“Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you will get neither.”—C. S. Lewis, 20th-century English Christian writer and scholar.

“What a vast difference there is between knowing God and loving Him.”—Blaise Pascal, 17th-century French mathematician and philosopher.

Sabbath

Complete the exercise in the *What Do You Think?* section. How do you think the character qualities you described are passed on from one generation to the next? Is it simply genetics? Is it only something you learn as you go through life? What is one quality that you received from your parents or family members that you want to hold on to and perhaps pass on to your children one day?

Consider Paul's challenge in Romans 12:2: "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (NIV). What are some patterns you see in your life that you want to change?

Start your change today with prayer, and follow Paul's counsel to let the transformation begin with your mind.

Sunday

Read the selection from Genesis 5 in the *Into the Story* section. Try not to get bogged down because you are reading a genealogy. Genealogies can be loaded with insight, but you have to look carefully. Follow the questions in *Out of the Story* and give this historical survey a chance to speak. The Bible says that "when God created man, he made him in the likeness of God" (Genesis 5:1, NIV). What does this statement mean to you? How much like God are we and in what ways? As you read the details of this passage, what do you think is the message God is trying to give you today?

Monday

Read the *Key Text* for this week and think about the events in your life that have been turning points for you. According to this verse, the birth of Enoch's son was a huge turning point when Enoch started to walk with God in a whole new way. Are you at a turning point in your life? Write a prayer to God. Talk to Him about making this day the first day of a new direction in your life.

Tuesday

Read the quote in the *Flashlight* section about Enoch's defining moment at the birth of Methuselah. What do you think people learn about a relationship with God when they become parents? What do you learn about a relationship with God from the viewpoint of a child? Clearly, becoming a parent has a way of transforming someone. Ask someone who has a real walk with God what keeps them closest to God in their journey. Invite them to share with you the Bible character that most inspires their walk with God.

Wednesday

Read the *Punch Lines* for this week and identify the verse that most urgently speaks to you. Why do you think it does? *Highlight* or *underline* in the other verses the key phrases that speak to you and identify someone with whom you might be able to share your insights. Pray that God will give you the opportunity and the courage to say the words that might be a blessing to someone else in the coming week.

Thursday

Read chapter 6 in *Patriarchs and Prophets* and note the rich insight that Ellen White offers on the life of Enoch and the world in which he lived. In many ways, Enoch's world is much like our world today in thought and in practice. Choose the lesson that emerges in this chapter that you think is the most important for you right now, and write that lesson in a sentence or two. Share with someone why you think it is so important.

Friday

Reflect on the moments of your life when you have felt very close to God as well as the moments when God seemed very distant. What elements of your life contribute to the closeness you feel to God?

What things in your life create distance between you and God?

The Bible says, "Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did" (1 John 2:6, NIV). Where will you walk today? Think about the places and the people and the things you will have to walk to today. How would Jesus walk in those places if He were here? When you walk today, invite Jesus to show you His style of walking, and practice the walk of Christ.

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this week's reading*

Patriarchs and Prophets, chapter 6.

*A special adaptation of *Patriarchs and Prophets* has been created just for you by the White Estate and the Pacific Press Publishing Association. Get more info about it at: www.cornerstoneconnections.net. By following this plan you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages Series each year.